

The current numbering system for GB Perfins originates from a system devised by members of the "Perfin Study Circle" (which developed into SEPS and later the Perfin Society). The members produced a "Simplified Catalogue of Perfins of GB" and numbered them in alphabetic sequence for each letter leaving spaces for later additions which were numbered out of alphabetic sequence. When McKee and Tomkins produced the Tillies catalogue they adopted the existing system and improved upon it. New discoveries were placed in the correct alphabetic sequence using upper case letters as suffixed to the original numbers, and a new system of decimal numbers were employed to identify variations of design showing different numbers of pins or other differences.

This system has withstood the test of time but is now showing signs of strain as large numbers of new designs have been discovered. Accordingly the Perfin Society has introduced a new numbering system to coincide with the production of "Y Catalog Bach Perffinau Cymraeg - The Catalogue of Welsh Perfins" and a new Illustrated, Identified Catalogue both of which use the new numbering system. Recognising that many collections and publications use the Tillies numbering it was necessary to ensure that the new system was easily translated from and to the old system. This has been done by basing the new system on a numbering system which is ten times the Tillies system, but retaining the Tillies classification for separating variations of the same letters. Thus A193.1a becomes A1930.01a (a leading zero is placed for convenience before the decimal .1) and the space between the numbers A1930 and A190 is to be used to insert new discoveries so A193A becomes A1935. Some confusion could occur if a reader does not know which system is used. For instance A190 could be from either system. To avoid this leading zeros are used to insure all numbers in the new system have four figures (no four figure numbers exist in the old system).

This all seems most complicated when written out, but a few examples should demonstrate just how simple it is to convert from one system to the other enabling collectors to use either or both.

<u>Old Number</u>	<u>Perfin</u>	<u>New Number</u>
160.6	C & C <sup>o</sup> /L <sup>d</sup>	1600.06
160A	C & C <sup>o</sup> ./L <sup>d</sup>	1605
160B	C & C <sup>o</sup> ../L <sup>d</sup>	1607
161	C & C <sup>o</sup> ./L <sup>k</sup> .	1610
162.1	C & C <sup>o</sup> /L <sup>td</sup>	1620.01
162.2	C & C <sup>o</sup> /L <sup>td</sup>	1620.02
162B	C & C <sup>o</sup> ./L <sup>td</sup> ..	1627
162D	C & C <sup>o</sup> /M	1629
163	C.C <sup>o</sup> ../N	1630

The new discovery C & Co./Ld. would be given the new series number 1606 avoiding the old system number 160AA and the perfin C & C°/Ld. would be 1602 in the new system. In a book or catalogue the number P41.1 must be an "old" number identified with the Petroleum Board because it does not have four digits. Its new number would be P0410.01 which has four digits and is easily identified with your catalogue or collection using the old system by deleting the two zeros.

The Tillies system is very confusing in the case of single letter perfins as the assignment of the decimal part of the numbers is unregulated. To avoid this the decimal classification of single letter perfins (those numbered 0010 in the new system) has been redrawn. The decimals are assigned in order starting with the letter having the lowest hole count. Perfins with identical hole counts are ordered on height starting with the smallest. Standard letters are numbered first followed by serifed letters, script letters and finally letters in designs. This unfortunately leaves no space for additions so these will have to be added in order of discovery at the end.

I hope that the change does not cause confusion, and that with the publication of the new GB Catalogue using this system will ensure it soon becomes familiar. In future all Society publications will use this new system, and as Catalogue Editor I will oversee the conversion of known numbered perfins and assign numbers to newly discovered perfin designs on request.